
PUBLIC HEALTH

MISSION

The Durham County Health Department's mission is to preserve, protect and enhance the general health and environment of the community.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department is comprised of seven divisions: Administration, Dental, Environmental Health, General Health Services Clinic, Health Education, Nursing and Nutrition. These divisions work collaboratively to accomplish the following Agency goals:

- Promote optimal health and wellness of children,
- Decrease premature death rates,
- Prevent and control communicable disease,
- Maximize organizational productivity.

2002-03 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Purchased new patient care management system (QS Insight).
- Prepared health department for HIPAA Privacy Compliance effective 4/14/03.
- Twenty-two foodservice operations (Durham's Winner's Circle program) identified healthy food options in their menus.
- Conducted 1750 medical, nutrition therapy sessions with high-risk pregnant women, infants, children and adults with chronic diseases.
- Initiated a Lead Education and Assessment Program (LEAP).
- A total of 201 individuals were screened for syphilis resulting in 4 new cases.
- Provided 3,462 dental screenings for children in Durham Public Elementary Schools.
- Implemented administration of nitrous oxide to anxious patients in dental clinic.
- Collaborated with El Centro Hispano to develop a communicable disease-screening clinic for syphilis, gonorrhea, and tuberculosis screening.
- Initiated development of county plans for bioterrorism preparedness including smallpox vaccination and emergency management services.
- Developed Perinatal Hepatitis B Tracking Program.
- Managed 14 cases of TB for year 2002.
- Conducted TB outreach for contact investigation in an apartment complex in Durham.
- Reorganized Nursing Division into current Community Health Division.

- Hired a Spanish-speaking maternal outreach worker to follow-up patients without Medicaid.
- Provided continuity of care for Home Health staff clients during inclement weather periods (without city wide electrical or telephone services).
- Provided "ServSafe" food certification course to restaurant employees in English and Spanish.
- Upgraded food borne illness investigative capabilities through incorporation of Epi 2000.
- Provided local and state surveillance for West Nile Virus through the implementation of CDHD "West Nile Virus Response Plan."

2003-04 OBJECTIVES

- Reduce the non-white infant mortality rate by 0.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- Reduce the proportion of young children with untreated dental decay in their primary teeth.
- Increase the proportion of children who have received dental sealant on their molar teeth.
- Promote wellness in children and adults in Durham by using messages based on eating fruits, vegetables, grains, fats, calcium, and regularly participating in physical activity.
- Provide medical nutrition therapy to pregnant women, infants, children and adults with high-risk conditions or chronic diseases.
- Reduce the rate of HIV infection to 46.4 new cases per 100,000 people.
- Reduce the rate of primary and secondary syphilis to 15.8 new cases per 100,000 people.
- Reduce the rate of gonorrhea to 270.5 cases per 100,000 people.
- Reduce the number of tuberculosis cases to 5.4 cases per 100,000 people.
- Reduce the breast cancer death rate to 36.4 cases per 100,000 people.
- Increase the number of high-risk 1- and 2-year old children (enrolled in Medicaid) screened for lead poisoning.
- Reduce Pregnancies among adolescent females (15-17 years of age).
- Track percentage of first trimester prenatal care.
- Increase the number of persons using gunlocks through the distribution of free gunlocks, education and awareness.
- Reduce youth tobacco use through prevention education, cessation education, treatment, environmental change and policy change.
- Increase the proportion of County employees who engage in vigorous physical activity.